

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Tel: (617) 727-7775
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www.mass.gov/eopss

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: April 11, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Location: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only) [857-327-9245](tel:857-327-9245) **Phone Conference ID:** 340 146 417#

Agenda Items:

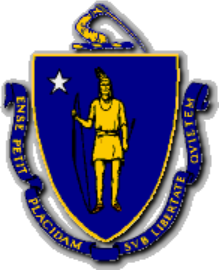
1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Peck at 11:04 am.

		Present	Absent	Meeting Minutes
1	Chair-Andrew Peck	X		Yes
2	Scott Taberner*	X		Yes
3	Rep. Sean Garballey	X		Yes
4	Sen. James Eldridge	X		Yes
5	DA Marian Ryan	X		Yes
6	Allison S. Cartwright**	X		
7	Lorna Spencer		X	
8	Ret. Chief Fred Ryan		X	
9	Diane Coffey	X		Yes
10	Andrea Berte	X		Abstain
11	Judge Peter Agnes		X	
12	Kara Hayes	X		Yes
13	Vacant			
14	Vacant			
15	Dennis D. Evertt Jr.	X		Yes
16	Susan Jeghelian	X		Yes
17	Samuel Williams**	X		

*Available until 12 pm. ** Joined after 11:10 am.

EOPSS Staff: Anjeza Xhemollari and Arielle Mullaney.



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2. Welcome

Chairman Andrew Peck welcomed all Committee members and attendance was taken.

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023

Scott Taberner made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator James Eldridge. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

4. State Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee Update

Susan provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the subcommittee's work over the past 3 months. The purpose of the presentation was to solicit general and specific feedback/input to inform the subcommittee's work going forward.

Since its inception, the State Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee membership has grown. Currently, the membership consists of:

1. Susan Jeghelian, Chair
2. Scott Taberner
3. Sam Williams
4. Kara Hayes
5. Dennis Everett
6. Peter Agnes

The Subcommittee is tasked with:

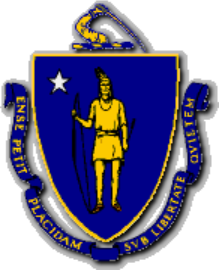
- **Charge:**

Develop RJAC's recommendation for establishment and funding of a statutory state RJ office to serve as administrative and funding agency for program development, capacity building, and research on RJ in the Commonwealth.

- **Work Products:**

- State RJ office design and draft enabling statute
- State RJ office budget and draft funding request

The Subcommittee has a timeline and strategy:



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The strategy is to seek funding and adoption of state RJ office statute in FY25 budget through separate line item & outside section. The timeline is between February 2023 to November 2023 (10 months).

The Subcommittee has a work plan:

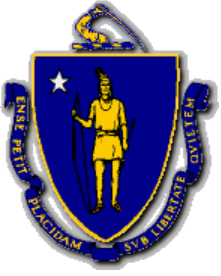
- Investigate state RJ office models & systems (Feb-April)
- Benchmark them against desired criteria for MA RJ office (April-May)
- Create preliminary design, budget, and enabling statute for MA RJ office (June-July)
- Bring these drafts to the RJAC for refinement and confirmation (Aug-Sept)
- Vet these with other RJ stakeholders and experts (Sept-Oct)
- Finalize design, budget, statute, and funding request with EOPSS and legislators (Oct-Nov)

The Subcommittee will work on the investigation of Other Models/Systems:

- Conducted online research of 25 models/systems
 - State-sponsored, statewide and national RJ systems (state and federal funded)
- Summarized research in chart:
 - Name, description, website, location, authority, jurisdiction, functions, funding, reporting, history, mission, partners, stakeholder, impact
- Reviewed research chart using benchmarking criteria
- Selected 9 models/systems for further investigation
 - 2 models (MOVA & MOPC) to make presentation for May 2 Subcommittee meeting
 - 7 systems to be interviewed using benchmarking criteria for additional data gathering

The Subcommittee is looking at Selected RJ Models/Systems:

- Colorado – Restorative Justice Coordinating Council
- Nebraska – Supreme Court Office of Dispute Resolution
- Maine – School Safety Center
- Texas – National Association of Community & Restorative Justice
- Vermont – The National Center on Restorative Justice



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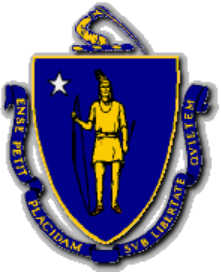
- California – Impact Justice Restorative Justice Project
- Scotland – Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Veterans

The Subcommittee is looking at Benchmark Criteria:

- Criteria for MA state RJ Office (*drawn from RJAC Annual Reports*):
 - State-sponsored (funded by budget appropriation/possibly savings from reduced incarceration)
 - Statutory (established by statute)
 - Knowledge-based resource (houses expertise to inform/promulgate policy, standards, programming, technical assistance; technology practices)
 - Clearinghouse (best practices, programs, trainings, activities, funding opportunities)
 - Program developer and grant-maker (designs and funds of statewide/local programs)
 - Fundraiser and Funder (applies for federal/state funding and disburses the funding statewide)
 - Educator and capacity builder (public awareness campaigns; conferences)
 - Researcher (conducts program evaluation and research to demonstrate impact/accountability)
 - Convener/leader (criminal justice system and community in redressing structural harms)
 - Victim-centered/offender accountable & compassionate (truly restorative)
 - Integrates/Implements diversity, equity and inclusion (in staffing, programs, and partners)

The Subcommittee is working on other core functions/components:

- Statewide w/broad jurisdiction not limited to one sector/branch of government
- Advisory council/board of stakeholders and system representatives (like RJAC) to ensure accountability to RJ principles
- Administrative and funding agency for all state and federal RJ grants
- Centralized hub for public education and training; technical assistance
- Mechanism to ensure quality through the establishment of standards/guidelines
- Research center (quantitative & qualitative; participatory), resource center, support for RJ programs/provider



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- Balance mechanical/structural and people components – be victim/centered and offender accountability (legal dimension) and involve the community (community-based practices)

5. Input and Feedback to the Subcommittee

Members of RJAC had great feedback overall.

Chairman Peck had questions regarding the Office itself. What kind of office, what will be the purpose and how will it be structured?

Senator Eldridge asked where the Office will be housed. Under EOPSS or AG's Office?

Kara asked if the structure will be like MOVA's structure. The Board is Chaired by the AG.

Susan- at the next subcommittee meeting, MOVA and MOPC will present. We will provide an update at the next meeting.

Kara-the office needs to be victim-centered.

Scott-should we include an advisory council and how do we go about standards?

Susan-standards will not be one size fits all.

DA Ryan-How will we measure outcome? After a case is over in the court system. We do not usually follow up. That should be a critical role for the office.

6. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Jo-Anne-very impressed by the ongoing work. It seems that things are moving along great.

7. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

N/A

8. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 12:19 pm.